

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-12, 15, 18-23, 28-36, 40-47, 50-51, and 54-73 without prejudice or disclaimer. The applicant wishes to preserve the right to prosecute these claims in a continuing or divisional application as they are drawn to a non-elected invention. Please amend claims 14, 17, 37-39. Please add new claim 74.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (previously amended) A vector for transformation of plant cells comprising the antisense polynucleotide of claim 14 and regulatory sequences operatively linked to the antisense polynucleotide such that the polynucleotide is transcribed in a plant cell into which it is transformed.

Claim 14 (previously amended) An antisense polynucleotide which hybridizes with RNA encoding senescence-induced eIF-5A, wherein said antisense polynucleotide hybridizes under high stringency conditions with SEQ ID NO:11, wherein the high stringency conditions comprise a 6X SSC hybridization solution, and wherein hybridization is carried out at about 68°C.

Claim 15 (cancelled).

Claim 16 (previously amended) The antisense polynucleotide according to claim 14 wherein the antisense polynucleotide hybridizes to a 5'-non-coding region of the RNA encoding senescence-induced eIF-5a.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The antisense polynucleotide according to claim 14 wherein the antisense polynucleotide hybridizes to a 3'-end of the RNA encoding senescence-induced eIF-5a.

Claims 18-23 (cancelled).

Claim 24 (previously amended) A bacterial cell transformed with the vector according to claim 13.

Claim 25 (previously amended) A transgenic plant cell comprising the vector according to claim 13.

Claim 26 (previously amended) A plant grown from the plant cell of claim 25.

Claim 27 (previously amended) Progeny of the plant of claim 26, wherein the progeny comprise the vector of claim 13.

Claim 28-36 (cancelled).

Claim 37 (currently amended) The ~~method~~ vector according to claim 28 13
wherein the regulatory sequences comprise a constitutive promoter.

Claim 38 (currently amended) The ~~method~~ vector according to claim 28 13
wherein the regulatory sequences comprise a tissue specific promoter active in
the plant.

Claim 39 (currently amended) The ~~method~~ vector according to claim 28 13
wherein the regulatory sequences comprise a senescence-induced promoter
active in the plant.

Claim 40-47 (cancelled).

Claim 48 (previously amended) A plasmid comprising a replication system
functional in a prokaryotic host and an antisense polynucleotide according to
claim 14.

Claim 49 (previously amended) A plasmid comprising a replication system
functional in *Agrobacterium* and an antisense polynucleotide according to claim
14.

Claims 50-51 (cancelled).

Claim 52 (previously amended) The plant of claim 26 wherein the plant is a tomato plant.

Claim 53 (previously amended) The plant of claim 26 wherein the plant is a flowering plant.

Claims 54-73 (cancelled).

Claim 74 (new) An apoptosis-induced cDNA having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:11.